

**Funding Opportunity:** Television Drama Series to Combat Violent Extremism

**Funding Opportunity Number:** SCAKAB-16-GR-003-SCA-03222016

**Questions and Answers**

**Question 1:** Audience: My understanding is that the general audience is university-age youth living in Afghanistan. Is there a more narrow group that is being considered as primary audience?

**Answer:** The audience could include people who do not go to university but are “university-aged”, i.e. 17-24 years old.

**Question 2:** Funding and delivery schedule: What are the deliverables for this 15-month period? Completion of development, production, post-production, marketing, broadcast?

**Answer:** Yes. Development, production, post-production, marketing and broadcast. The timeline for each phase is determined by the grantee.

**Question 3:** Distribution: As I understand, broadcast has to happen via a commercial network that has significant following in Afghanistan. Is that so? Do we need to partner up with a broadcaster prior to applying for the grant or is it possible to use the development period for securing such a partnership?

**Answer:** Yes, broadcast should be on a commercial network in Afghanistan. Applicants that do not have an internal broadcasting capability or that are proposing to broadcast on a network with which they are not affiliated, must include with their application, a letter of intent from the entity that it proposes to broadcast the show. This will also aid in budget development.

**Question 4:** Marketing: Does the marketing campaign plan have to be submitted with the grant application or is it something that will be developed if and once the funding is awarded? Can the grant be used to cover the marketing costs?

**Answer:** Proposed budgets may include funds to cover marketing costs and the marketing plan should be submitted with the proposal.

**Question 5:** Content: What language(s) will the series be produced in? Would it be acceptable if a major portion of the content were done in animation, as opposed to live action? Assuming that the animation is done in a style appropriate to the dramatic genre.

**Answer:** The series should be produced in Dari. We welcome all ideas for the production format.

**Question 6:** Is the series aimed at an American or Afghan audience?

**Answer:** The intended audience is Afghan.

**Question 7:** When you say national broadcaster are you looking for a broadcaster in Afghanistan or in the United States?

**Answer:** Afghanistan

**Question 8:** Is it possible to conduct any other imitative (activity) within the same budget along with TV drama series?

**Answer:** We are soliciting proposals for a television series. We welcome creative ideas for marketing the series.

**Question 9:** Is it possible to put production and broadcasting cost in the budget?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question 10:** From which TV channel should the TV drama series be broadcasted?

**Answer:** It is up to the grantee to secure an agreement with a TV channel for broadcast.

**Question 11:** Can an Afghan national NGO apply for this grant?

**Answer:** Yes. An Afghan NGO may apply. Applicants that do not have an internal broadcasting capability or that are proposing to broadcast on a network with which they are not affiliated, must include with their application a letter of intent from the entity that it proposes to broadcast the show.

**Question 12:** Should we propose NTA salary scale in our budget?

**Answer:** The NTA salary scale applies only to Afghan staff. An applicant's evaluation score for cost effectiveness may be negatively impacted for a budget with salaries that are not consistent with the NTA scale.

**Question 13:** Does the Embassy have a preference regarding the language of the series? Specifically, would the Embassy prefer the series be produced in Dari or Pashto?

**Answer:** Dari

**Question 14:** Can the Embassy provide additional detail on how they would like the three sample script outlines presented, and what should be included? Is there a particular format the Embassy would like applicants to utilize?

**Answer:** There is no required format for script outlines. They may include, inter alia, a brief introduction to characters, scenarios, samples of challenges, and resolution.

**Question 15:** Is there a page limit for proposals and annexes?

**Answer:** If a page limit is not explicitly stated per section in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) document, there is no maximum page limit for that section.

**Question 16:** The anticipated award type listed under Section B of this Notice of Funding Opportunity is listed as: "Grant." It does not however specify the anticipated type of grant agreement to be awarded. Per 2 CFR 200.201 the use of Grant agreements includes the use of Fixed Amount Awards. Please specify if the awarding agency intends to issue a cost-reimbursable Grant agreement or a Fixed Amount Award?

**Answer:** This will be a standard (cost-reimbursable) grant agreement.

**Question 17:** The objectives listed under Section A Program description, state that the successful applicant will complete the following:

- a. Produce and Broadcast a minimum of 12, 30 minute episodes of a drama series featuring young people confronted with the challenge of resisting violent extremism.
- b. Three sample script outlines
- c. A notional broadcast plan
- d. Multi-media marketing campaign

The objectives of this opportunity are based on the successful completion and delivery of concrete and tangible milestones. As such, the nature of this award is suitable to a Fixed Amount Award per § 200.201(b). If the Government had not previously intended to issue a Fixed Amount Award for this opportunity, will it now consider issuing a Fixed Amount Award in light of the above considerations?

**Answer:** No. This will be a standard (cost-reimbursable) grant agreement.

**Question 18:** Section 7 – Letter of Intent: The application states that partnerships between the recipient and a media production and broadcast network are critical. Applicants that do not have internal broadcasting capability or that are proposing to broadcast on a network with which they are not affiliated, must include a letter of intent from the entity that it proposes to broadcast the show.

- a. Production and Broadcast are commercial activities and engaging a Production house and Broadcast network requires entering into agreements with companies who offer these services at a fee as part of their normal business. Does the letter of intent need to reflect that these commercial organizations will be charging a fee for their services?
- b. Is there an advance understanding that engaging commercial organizations that provide production and broadcast services within normal business operations and in a commercial setting will be engaged as contractors (as defined in § 200.23)?
- c. Is there an advance understanding that the Production and Broadcast contractors engaged to perform services under this award are not expected to be subject to the compliance requirements of the Federal program, though similar requirements may apply for other reasons (§ 200.330(b))?

**Answer:** **a.** The letter of intent does not need to include cost information, but the detailed budget and budget narrative must include this cost information.  
**b.** It is up to the recipient to determine which kind of relationship to enter into with a sub-recipient (e.g. as a sub-grantee or a subcontractor). This tool can assist applicants in determining whether a subgrant or a subcontract is appropriate  
[https://www.agacgfm.org/AGA/ToolsResources/Documents/subcontractor\\_checklist\\_v6\\_FINAL\\_08-19-15\\_fillable.pdf](https://www.agacgfm.org/AGA/ToolsResources/Documents/subcontractor_checklist_v6_FINAL_08-19-15_fillable.pdf)  
**c.** No. All grant terms and conditions of the award flow down to sub-recipients.

**Question 19:** Section 3 Budget (f) Contractual: The application states that for each sub-grant/contract the applicant should provide a detailed breakdown explaining specific services. Are applicants required to submit a subrecipient vs. contractor determination as part of the budget notes for this section?

**Answer:** No. This is not required as part of the application.

**Question 20:** Section 3 Budget (f) Contractual: The application states that the sub-grant budgets must provide the same level of detail for personnel, travel, supplies, equipment, direct costs, fringe benefits, and indirect costs as required of the direct applicant.

- a. What level of detail is required for subcontractor budgets?
- b. Please confirm if the level of detail cited in the answer to 5(a) would only apply to cost-reimbursable subcontracts or if this level of detail would also applies to fixed price subcontracts?

**Answer:** **a.** The same level of detail is required for all sub-recipient budgets (outlined in the NOFO), whether they are sub-grantees or subcontractors.  
**b.** The same level of detail applies for any type of subaward. If the recipient issues a subaward, they can choose to issue a fixed price subaward if the subaward is less than \$150,000 (this requires prior approval from the Grants Officer).

**Question 21:** Section 3 (Budget). Indirect Costs. The application states that an organization that does not have a NICRA may not budget indirect costs that exceed the 10% de minimis rate. Under §200.414 (f) the decision to elect to use the de minimis rate is left to the Non-Federal entity. It is also understood that the 10% de minimis rate was selected as appropriate to minimize the possibility that the Federal government over reimburse for indirect costs that had not been thoroughly analyzed by the awarding agency. If the 10% de minimis rate is not sufficient for an organization to recover its indirect costs, and the applicant elects to not charge the de minimis rate, will the Government allow the non-federal entity to charge a higher indirect rate on the basis of:

- a. Providing sufficient justification to allow for analysis of the indirect costs and establish the reasonableness of the rate submitted?
- b. The organization absent a NICRA, submitting an indirect rate that has been agreed to on past US Government awards with the Department of State?

**Answer:** a. No. b. No.

**Question 22:** How soon after an applicant is selected, can the applicant expect to receive instructions on how to register in SPOT?

**Answer:** Upon award, the GOR will consult with the recipient on SPOT requirements.